

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 401578/MIYAGAWA

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

JUN FUJIMOTO

Art Unit: Unassigned

Application No. Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: February 19, 2002

For: CURRENCY CONTROL SYSTEM AND
PORTABLE SAFE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 14 with:

For example, since handling bills and coins every time of playing is cumbersome, there is a system in which renting out pachinko balls used in an amusement game facility is controlled with cards. With such a system, a player buys a prepaid card by inserting bills (and coins) into a card vending machine placed in the amusement game facility, receives pachinko balls discharged as the card is inserted into the card inserting slot of a pachinko game machine or of a ball renting machine by the side of the pachinko game machine, and plays using the pachinko game balls.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 2 with:

Generally, managers or employees of the amusement game facility load the currency handling devices with specified quantities (amounts) of bills, coins, and cards before the business hours of the amusement game facility, and after the business hours, they take the bills, coins, and cards out of the currency handling machines, count them, sum up expenses,

etc. Replenishing bills, coins, and cards may be carried out also during the business hours of the day as a matter of course.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Replace the indicated claims with:

1. (Amended) A currency control system comprising:
a game-related device having a currency holding section for holding currency;
a portable safe removably attachable to said game-related device, and functioning as said currency holding section when attached to said game-related device; and
a currency control device to which said portable safe is removably attachable, said currency control device providing for at least one of (i) holding currency in said portable safe and (ii) retrieving currency held in said portable safe from said portable safe.
2. (Amended) The currency control system according to claim 1, wherein said currency holding section provides for at least one of (i) holding currency inserted from outside the device and (ii) holding currency to be discharged outside the device.
3. (Amended) The currency control system according to claim 1, comprising a system control computer providing unitary control of quantities of currency in said game-related device, said portable safe, and said currency control device.
4. (Amended) The currency control system according to claim 1, comprising an anomaly detection device for detecting an anomaly occurring in said portable safe.
5. (Amended) The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly when said portable safe is not attached to one of said game-related device and said currency control device.
6. (Amended) The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein said anomaly detection device is located on said portable safe.
7. (Amended) The currency control system according to claim 4, comprising an anomaly notifying section for issuing an anomaly notification when said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly.

8. (Amended) The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein said anomaly detection device detects a destructive anomaly for said portable safe.

9. (Amended) The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly when said portable safe is neither attached to said game-related device nor to said currency control device for too long a time.

10. (Amended) The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein said anomaly detection device includes a positional anomaly detection device detecting an anomaly based on position of said portable safe.

11. (Amended) The currency control system according to claim 10, wherein said positional anomaly detection device is located at a position separate from said portable safe.

12. (Amended) The currency control system according to claim 3, wherein attaching said portable safe to and removing said portable safe from said game-related device or said currency control device requires an operator's card of an authorized operator to be inserted into said game-related device or said currency control device.

13. (Amended) The currency control system according to claim 12, wherein said operator's card has an operator's code recorded thereon, said system control computer has the operator's code registered in advance and corresponding to the operator, and agreement of the operator's code recorded on said operator's card with the operator's code registered in said system control computer is at least one condition for determining authority of an authorized operator.

14. (Amended) The currency control system according to claim 13, wherein the operator's code recorded on said operator's card includes an operator's peculiar code peculiar to the operator and a random number generated and affixed to the peculiar code when a specified event occurs.

15. (Amended) The currency control system according to claim 1, wherein said portable safe exchanges information in wireless communication with said game-related device to which said portable safe is attached or with said currency control device to which said portable safe is attached.

16. (Amended) A portable safe removably attachable to a game-related device used by players and removably attachable to a currency control device for dispensing and retrieving currency, comprising:

a housing for holding currency; and

an antenna located on said housing for exchanging information in wireless communication with said game-related device and said currency control device, wherein

said housing includes a currency insertion window section , a currency discharging window section, a first shutter plate closing said currency insertion window section, a second shutter plate closing said currency discharging window section, a lock mechanism for locking said first and second shutter plates, and an unlocking mechanism for unlocking said lock mechanism upon detecting attachment of said portable safe to said game-related device or said currency control device and

said portable safe functions as a currency holding section of said game-related device when attached to said game-related device and as a currency holding section of said currency control device when attached to said currency control device.

17 (Amended) The portable safe according to claim 16, including an anomaly detection device for detecting an anomaly occurring in said portable safe.

18 (Amended) The portable safe according to claim 17, wherein said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly when said portable safe is neither attached to said game-related device nor to said currency control device.

19 (Amended) The portable safe according to claim 17, comprising an anomaly notifying section for issuing an anomaly notification when said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly.

20 (Amended) The portable safe according to claim 17, wherein said anomaly detection device detects a destructive anomaly for said portable safe.

21 (Amended) The portable safe according to claim 17, wherein said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly when said portable safe is neither attached to said game-related device nor said currency control device for too long a time.

22 (Amended) The portable safe according to claim 17, wherein said anomaly detection device includes a positional anomaly detection device detecting an anomaly based on position of said portable safe.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Replace the Abstract with:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

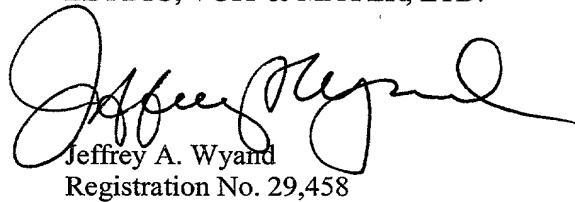
A currency control system with security functions protects against theft or the like. A currency control system according to the present invention includes at least (1) a game-related device (such as a game card vending machine) having a currency holding section which holds currency inserted from outside the device and/or currency to be dispensed out of the device, (2) a portable safe that may be attached to and removed from the game-related device as required and when attached to the game-related device, serves as the currency holding section, and (3) a currency control device (such as a cash control machine) to or from which the portable safe may be attached and removed, as required, and when the portable safe is attached, causes the portable safe to hold currency and/or retrieves currency held in the portable safe.

REMARKS

The foregoing Amendment corrects translational errors and conforms the claims to United States practice. No new matter is added.

Respectfully submitted,

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**AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION, CLAIMS AND
ABSTRACT MADE VIA PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Amendments to the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 14:

For example, since handling bills and coins every time of playing is cumbersome, there is a system in which renting out pachinko balls used in an amusement game facility is controlled with cards. With such a system, a player buys a prepaid card by inserting bills (and coins) into a card vending machine placed in the amusement game facility, receives pachinko balls discharged=out as the card is inserted into the card inserting slot of a pachinko game machine or of a ball renting machine by the side of the pachinko game machine, and plays using the pachinko game balls.

Amendments to the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 2:

Generally, managers or employees of the amusement game facility load the currency handling devices with specified quantities (amounts) of bills, coins, and cards before the business hours of the amusement game facility, and after the business hours, they take=out the bills, coins, and cards out of the currency handling machines, count them, sum up expenses, etc. Replenishing bills, coins, and cards may be carried out also during the business hours of the day as a matter of course.

Amendments to existing claims:

1. (Amended) A currency control system comprising:
a game-related device having a currency holding section for holding currency;

a portable safe ~~to be attached~~ removably attachable to or removed from said game-related device, and functioning as said currency holding section when attached to said game-related device; and

a currency control device ~~capable of attaching and removing to which~~ said portable safe is removably attachable, said currency control device ~~having providing for~~ at least one of the two functions of (i) holding currency in said portable safe and/or (ii) retrieving currency held in said portable safe from said portable safe.

2. (Amended) ~~A~~ The currency control system according to claim 1, wherein said currency holding section ~~has provides for~~ at least one of the two functions of (i) holding currency inserted from outside the device and/or (ii) holding currency to be discharged outside the device.

3. (Amended) ~~A~~ The currency control system according to claim 1, comprising a system control computer ~~to perform~~ providing unitary control of quantities of currency in said game-related device, said portable safe, and said currency control device.

4. (Amended) ~~A~~ The currency control system according to claim 1, comprising an anomaly detection device for detecting an anomaly occurring in said portable safe.

5. (Amended) ~~A~~ The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly ~~in the state that when~~ said portable safe is not attached to one of said game-related device ~~or~~ and said currency control device.

6. (Amended) ~~A~~ The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein said anomaly detection device is ~~provided~~ located on said portable safe.

7. (Amended) ~~A~~ The currency control system according to claim 4, comprising an anomaly notifying section for ~~giving out issuing~~ an anomaly notification when said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly.

8. (Amended) ~~A~~ The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein said anomaly detection device detects a destructive anomaly for said portable safe.

9. (Amended) ~~A~~ The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly ~~of too long period during which when~~ said portable safe is neither attached to said game-related device nor to said currency control device for too long a time.

10. (Amended) ~~A~~ The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein said anomaly detection device ~~detects~~ includes a positional anomaly detection device detecting an anomaly ~~in the~~ based on position of said portable safe.

11. (Amended) ~~A~~ The currency control system according to claim 10, wherein said positional anomaly detection device is ~~provided located at a separate~~ position separate from said portable safe.

12. (Amended) ~~A~~ The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein attaching ~~and removing~~ said portable safe to and removing ~~said portable safe~~ from said game-related device or said currency control device ~~are conditioned that a~~ requires an operator's card of an ~~authentic~~ authorized operator ~~is to be~~ inserted into said game-related device or said currency control device.

13. (Amended) ~~A~~ The currency control system according to claim 12, wherein said operator's card has an operator's code recorded thereon, said system control computer has the operator's code registered ~~in advance~~ therein and corresponding to ~~said the~~ operator, and ~~the~~ agreement of ~~said the~~ operator's code recorded on said operator's card with ~~said the~~ operator's code registered in said system control computer is at least one ~~of conditions~~ condition for ~~judging the authenticity~~ determining authority of an authorized operator.

14. (Amended) ~~A~~ The currency control system according to claim 13, wherein ~~said the~~ operator's code recorded on said operator's card ~~is comprised of~~ includes an operator's peculiar code peculiar to ~~said the~~ operator and a random number generated and affixed to ~~said the~~ the peculiar code when a specified event occurs.

15. (Amended) ~~A~~ The currency control system according to claim 1, wherein said portable safe ~~is capable of exchanging~~ exchanges information in wireless communication with said game-related device to which said portable safe is attached or with said currency control device to which said portable safe is attached.

16. (Amended) A portable safe ~~capable of attaching to and removing from~~ removably attachable to a game-related device used by players and ~~capable of attaching to~~ and removing from ~~removably attachable to~~ a currency control device for dispensing and retrieving currency, comprising:

a housing for holding currency; and

an antenna ~~provided~~ located on said housing ~~to exchange for exchanging~~ information in wireless communication with said game-related device ~~or~~ and said currency control device, wherein

said housing ~~is provided with~~ includes a currency insertion window section and, a currency discharging window section and has, a first shutter plate capable of closing said currency insertion window section and, a second shutter plate capable of closing said currency discharging window section, a lock mechanism for locking said first and second shutter plates, and an unlocking mechanism for unlocking said lock mechanism upon detecting the attachment of said portable safe to said game-related device or said currency control device; and

wherein said portable safe functions as a currency holding section of said game-related device when attached to said game-related device and as a currency holding section of said currency control device when attached to said currency control device.

17 (Amended) ~~A~~ The portable safe according to claim 16, ~~provided with~~ including an anomaly detection device for detecting an anomaly occurring in said portable safe.

18 (Amended) ~~A~~ The portable safe according to claim 17, wherein said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly ~~occurring in the state that~~ when said portable safe is neither attached to said game-related device nor to said currency control device.

19 (Amended) ~~A~~ The portable safe according to claim 17, comprising an anomaly notifying section ~~for giving out~~ issuing an anomaly notification when said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly.

20 (Amended) ~~A~~ The portable safe according to claim 17, wherein said anomaly detection device detects a destructive anomaly for said portable safe.

21 (Amended) ~~A~~ The portable safe according to claim 17, wherein said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly ~~of too long period during which~~ when said portable safe is ~~neither~~ neither attached to said game-related device nor said currency control device ~~for too long a time~~.

22 (Amended) ~~A~~ The portable safe according to claim 17, wherein said anomaly detection device ~~detects~~ includes a positional anomaly detection device detecting an anomaly in the based on position of said portable safe.

Amendments to the abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~To provide a~~ A currency control system ~~replete~~ with security functions ~~for currency~~ protects against theft or the like. A currency control system according to the present invention is characterized by being made up of includes at least (1) a game-related device (such as a game card vending machine) having a currency holding section which holds currency inserted from outside the device and/or currency to be dispensed out of the device, (2) a portable safe that may be attached to ~~or~~ and removed from ~~said~~ the game-related device as required and when attached to the game-related device, serves as the currency holding section, and (3) a currency control device (such as a cash control machine) to or from which the portable safe may be attached ~~or~~ and removed, as required, and when the portable safe is attached, causes ~~said~~ the portable safe to hold currency and/or retrieves currency held in the portable safe.

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PENDING CLAIMS AFTER ENTRY OF PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

1. A currency control system comprising:
a game-related device having a currency holding section for holding currency;
a portable safe removably attachable to said game-related device, and functioning as
said currency holding section when attached to said game-related device; and
a currency control device to which said portable safe is removably attachable, said
currency control device providing for at least one of (i) holding currency in said portable safe
and (ii) retrieving currency held in said portable safe from said portable safe.
2. The currency control system according to claim 1, wherein said currency holding
section provides for at least one of (i) holding currency inserted from outside the device and
(ii) holding currency to be discharged outside the device.
3. The currency control system according to claim 1, comprising a system control
computer providing unitary control of quantities of currency in said game-related device, said
portable safe, and said currency control device.
4. The currency control system according to claim 1, comprising an anomaly
detection device for detecting an anomaly occurring in said portable safe.
5. The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein said anomaly detection
device detects an anomaly when said portable safe is not attached to one of said game-related
device and said currency control device.
6. The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein said anomaly detection
device is located on said portable safe.

7. The currency control system according to claim 4, comprising an anomaly notifying section for issuing an anomaly notification when said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly.
8. The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein said anomaly detection device detects a destructive anomaly for said portable safe.
9. The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly when said portable safe is neither attached to said game-related device nor to said currency control device for too long a time.
10. The currency control system according to claim 4, wherein said anomaly detection device includes a positional anomaly detection device detecting an anomaly based on position of said portable safe.
11. The currency control system according to claim 10, wherein said positional anomaly detection device is located at a position separate from said portable safe.
12. The currency control system according to claim 3, wherein attaching said portable safe to and removing said portable safe from said game-related device or said currency control device requires an operator's card of an authorized operator to be inserted into said game-related device or said currency control device.
13. The currency control system according to claim 12, wherein said operator's card has an operator's code recorded thereon, said system control computer has the operator's code registered in advance and corresponding to the operator, and agreement of the operator's code recorded on said operator's card with the operator's code registered in said system control computer is at least one condition for determining authority of an authorized operator.
14. The currency control system according to claim 13, wherein the operator's code recorded on said operator's card includes an operator's peculiar code peculiar to the operator and a random number generated and affixed to the peculiar code when a specified event occurs.
15. The currency control system according to claim 1, wherein said portable safe exchanges information in wireless communication with said game-related device to which

said portable safe is attached or with said currency control device to which said portable safe is attached.

16. A portable safe removably attachable to a game-related device used by players and removably attachable to a currency control device for dispensing and retrieving currency, comprising:

a housing for holding currency; and

an antenna located on said housing for exchanging information in wireless communication with said game-related device and said currency control device, wherein

said housing includes a currency insertion window section , a currency discharging window section, a first shutter plate closing said currency insertion window section, a second shutter plate closing said currency discharging window section, a lock mechanism for locking said first and second shutter plates, and an unlocking mechanism for unlocking said lock mechanism upon detecting attachment of said portable safe to said game-related device or said currency control device and

said portable safe functions as a currency holding section of said game-related device when attached to said game-related device and as a currency holding section of said currency control device when attached to said currency control device.

17 The portable safe according to claim 16, including an anomaly detection device for detecting an anomaly occurring in said portable safe.

18 The portable safe according to claim 17, wherein said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly when said portable safe is neither attached to said game-related device nor to said currency control device.

19 The portable safe according to claim 17, comprising an anomaly notifying section for issuing an anomaly notification when said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly.

20 The portable safe according to claim 17, wherein said anomaly detection device detects a destructive anomaly for said portable safe.

21 The portable safe according to claim 17, wherein said anomaly detection device detects an anomaly when said portable safe is neither attached to said game-related device nor said currency control device for too long a time.

22 The portable safe according to claim 17, wherein said anomaly detection device includes a positional anomaly detection device detecting an anomaly based on position of said portable safe.